wheat and rice at specially subsidized rates under ITDP.

(c) Food subsidy is given to Food Corporation of India only for handling foodgrains.

(d) The specific type of service rendered by FCI is unique to this organisation, and hence its handling charges are not comparable with that of other organisations.

Working of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission

2418. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the routine exercises of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission for fixing procurement prices are outdated;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to rectify the same; and

(c) whether Government are aware that a State Government had written-off short-term and long term loans of farmers consequent upon the failure of the Commission to fix procurement prices in time and with a view to relieve the farmers of the cost escalation in their agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENLRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are not aware of writing off short-term and long-term loans of farmers by any State Government consequent upon alleged failure of Government to fix procurement prices in time in consultation with Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

Infrauctuous expenditure by the Department of Steel

2419. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his Report for 1985-86 had considered that the amount of Rs. 15 crores incurred by the Department of Steel was an infrauctuous expenditure;

(b) whether Government also considered that the amount spent on Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka and Neelachal Steel Plant in Orissa were unnecessary and wasteful expenditure; and

(c) if so, what steps Government had taken to fix the responsibility on officials who were involved in these type of expenditures?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of contaminated butter

2420. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the various Press Reports particularly 'Sunday Observer' of the 24th May, 1987 from Bombay regarding contaminated butter imported by Indian Dairy Corporation and if so, the quantity and value of butter and butter oil imported by Dairy Corporation since 1984 from EEC countries and Ireland; and